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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
**DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001  
Carson City, Nevada 89701 -5249

**MEMORANDUM**

**August 26, 2005**

**To:** All Interested Parties

**From:** Jon Palm PhD., P.E., Chief Bureau of Water Pollution Control

**Subject:** Nevada Division of Environment Protection's Temporary Policy on Small Commercial Septic Systems

This policy has been developed to assist the regulated community with questions regarding the transfer of the review and approval for small commercial septic systems (less than 5,000 gallon capacity – not flow) from the Division of Health to the Division of Environmental Protection following changes to Nevada Revised Statutes 444, becoming effective July 1, 2005. Small commercial septic systems will be handled in a similar way that they have been processed at the Bureau of Health Protection Services (BHPS), with minor differences.

NDEP will be working on developing regulations in the coming months to specifically address commercial septic systems. Additional changes may come at that time to commercial septic system requirements and the approval process.

All commercial septic systems will continue to:

1. Be designed, and plans and calculations stamped, by a Nevada registered engineer;
2. Be assessed a fee of \$200 for submission of plans;
3. Follow a similar approval process:
  - a. Submit Commercial septic plan submittal form and \$200 fee
  - b. Submit plans and specifications, and WTS-23 Check List
  - c. Receive letter for construction approval (if submission is complete)
    - i. If original submission is inadequate, there will be a \$100 fee charged for resubmission

This policy memorandum is for electronic distribution – the original memorandum is on file at the address shown on the letterhead

- d. Engineer submits letter certifying system installed pursuant to plans
- e. NDEP issues Letter of Authorization (similar to BHPS's Occupancy Permit)

**Specific changes are as follows:**

- 1. Commercial septic systems shall be designed in accordance with NAC 444.750 through 444.8396, the Uniform Plumbing Code and WTS-23 (water technical sheet found at our website);
- 2. Submit plans with the "Notice of Intent for Small Commercial Septic Systems";
- 3. Plans shall be submitted to the following address:

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Water Pollution Control  
Attn: Small Commercial Septic  
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

- 4. A Letter of Authorization will be issued in lieu of an "Occupancy Permit" as issued by the BHPS.

**Areas of restricted septic systems**

Over the years, the NDEP has restricted the construction and use of septic systems in certain areas of concern in Nevada due to water quality issues. In these areas, standard septic systems will not be approved, and mechanical systems will be considered on a case-by-case basis. These areas currently include:

- 1. Spanish Springs, Washoe County
- 2. Grass Valley, Humboldt County
- 3. Pahrump area, Nye County

Please check under the Bureau of Water Pollution Control [website](#) for the new commercial septic webpage, which will cover approval process, needed forms, and links to regulations and fact sheets.